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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

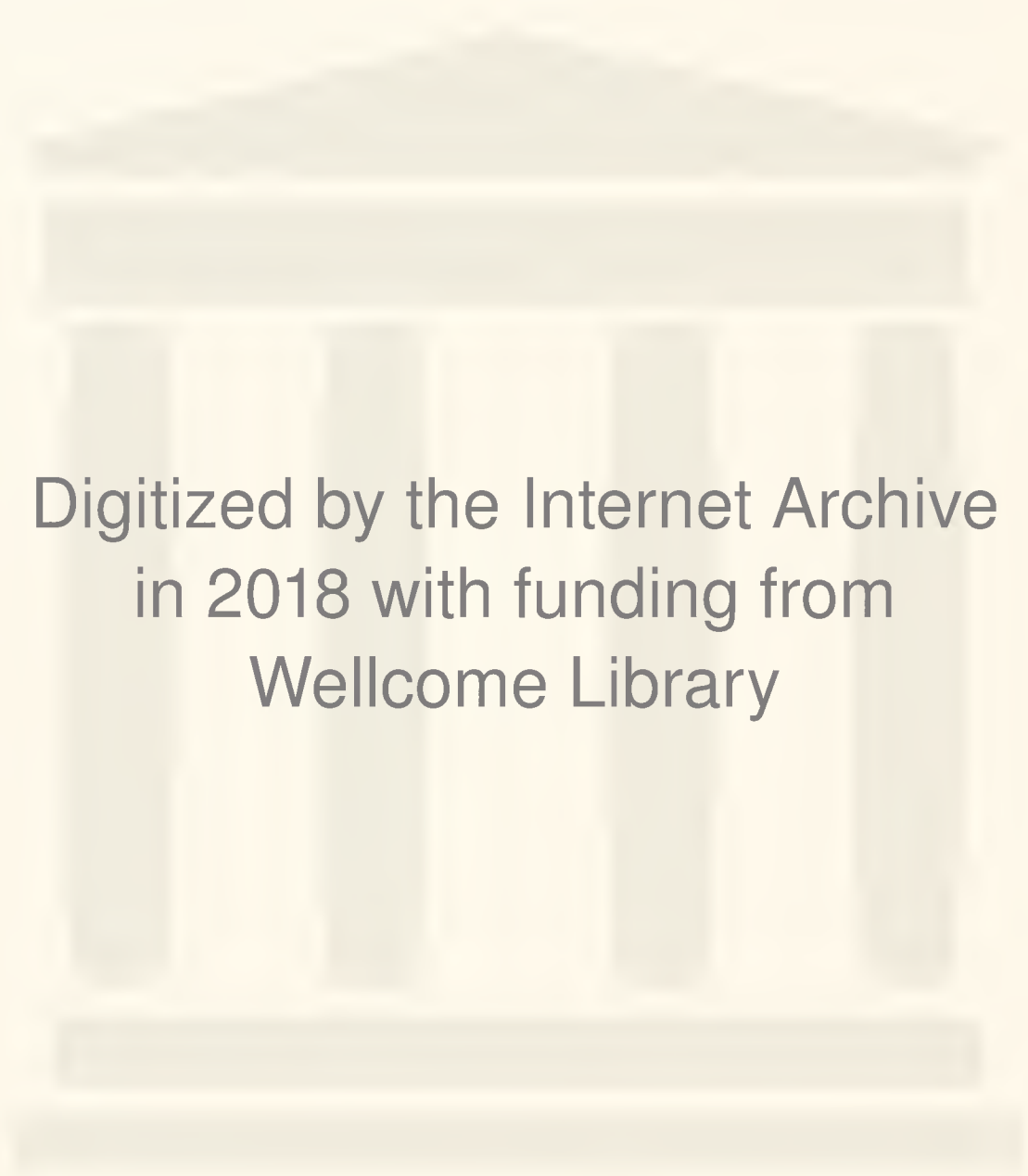
OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SHILDON



FOR THE YEAR

1959



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SHILDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1959

Chairman of the Council, 1959-1960

Councillor A. J. RICHARDSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. FRANCIS

Chairman of the Health Committee: Councillor W. NUNN

Chairman of the Housing Committee: Councillor W. EDWARDS

Councillors:

MRS. M. ASTON	G. W. KIRTLEY	F. STOREY
T. BENNETT	F. H. MANNERS	F. THORNTON
P. R. DOUTHWAITE	K. NEWBY	B. WALKER, J.P.
J. HOWE	F. PICKERING	K. WALLER
MRS. M. GRENFELL	F. J. ROBSON	K. WEATHERILL
	W. STOKOE	

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):

J. M. HEGARTY, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

W. K. HILL, M.B.E., M.P.H.I.A., C.I.Hsg.

Additional Public Health Inspector: VACANT

Clerical Assistant:

S. THOMPSON

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the 1959 Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your District.

Vital Statistics afford a means of comparison between the health of a district in different years and with the rest of the country. The rates for your district compare favourably with the previous year.

The Death Rate is slightly lower than last year, and lower than that for the country as a whole. Of the 154 Deaths, 51 died over 70 years, 33 over 80 years and 4 over 90 years of age.

The Still Birth Rate is slightly lower than last year. The Infant Mortality Rate is higher — there being 6 deaths in comparison with 4 for 1958. Of these 6 deaths, 3 died aged 2 days, from prematurity, and one aged 4 days from haemorrhagic disease of the newborn associated with prematurity. The other 2, aged 6 and 8 months respectively, were due to infection. This gives a similar neo-natal and early neo-natal mortality rate of 17.5 per 1000 Live Births. The perinatal mortality, i.e. the number of still births plus deaths in the first week of life per 1000 Live and Still Births, was 59.3.

Cases of Cancer of the lungs have increased from 4 last year to 10 this year. Cigarette smoking is still considered a major cause in this condition. Although lung cancer has increased, the overall number of cases of Cancer of all parts of the body had only very slightly increased.

The area as a whole keeps very free from dysentery. The black spot in the year under review is the notifications of Tuberculosis.

There were 17 cases notified (14 Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary). This is the highest since 1953 when there were 15. Last year there were only 5 cases (3 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary).

During the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit, 2206 attended for X-ray in comparison with 438 in 1958. Of the 28 referred for a large film, only one case of tuberculosis was discovered. Six cases of acquired cardiac were found and 2 cases of pneumoconiosis.

Whooping Cough notifications were only 8, but there was a Measles epidemic at the beginning of the year—the cases totalling 394.

The age for Poliomyelitis Vaccination was raised to under 40 years at the beginning of the year. Factories and Shildon Wagon Works were visited to try to obtain people in sufficient numbers to carry out vaccination on the premises. Only one factory did not co-operate. With the death of the famous footballer, Jeff Hall, from poliomyelitis, immediate further propaganda was unnecessary. People rushed to be vaccinated. Unfortunately, when we had plenty of vaccine, no one was eager for it and by the time the rush started, our vaccine was going out of date and so enthusiasm waned.

With the completion of the 5 year Clearance Programme, it is pleasing to note that the housing problem has now been largely met. The amount of overcrowding in the area has also diminished as is seen by the reduction in the number of applicants requiring 2 bedroomed houses having no home of their own. The problem now arising, is housing for the aged and the demand for this type of accommodation is increasing. In view of this, the proportion of bungalows to houses to be erected in the future should be varied to meet this need.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION

The Registrar General's figures for the Area at Mid 1959, show the resident population as 13,910, this being a decrease of 10 over the previous year.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate per 1,000 population
Legitimate	117	97	214	16.39
Illegitimate	7	7	14	18.72
	<hr/> 124	<hr/> 104	<hr/> 228	

Comparability Factor: .97

Still Births:

Legitimate	6	2	8	.57
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 8	

Death Rate:

Deaths in Shildon Area, as per Returns to the Medical Officer of Health						86
Deaths outside the Area	..	..	..	..	..	68
						<hr/> 154

Age Groups of Deaths in Shildon:

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-60	60-70	70-80	Over 80	Total
—	—	—	—	1	14	18	30	23	86

Age Groups of Deaths Outside the Area:

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-60	60-70	70-80	Over 80	Total
6	—	—	—	2	12	15	21	12	68

Causes of Death, 1959	Male	Female
All Causes	87	67
Tuberculosis (respiratory system)	1	—
Other Tubercular Disease	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	8	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms ..	7	5
Leukamia aleukaemia	1	1
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	14
Coronary disease angina	15	11
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2
Other heart disease	7	9
Other circulatory disease	1	5
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	2	4
Bronchitis	7	1
Other disease of respiratory system	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—
All other accidents	2	1
Suicide	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	87	67

DEATH RATE (*continued*)

	M	F.	Total	Death Rate
Deaths	87	67	154	11.07 per 1000 population per 1000 „ corr.
Under 1 year ..	3	3	6	^{26.3} 61.4 per 1000 Live Births
Still Births ..	6	2	8	35.9 per 1000 Live Births

The Death Rate for the Country (England and Wales) is 11.6 per 1,000 population.

The Total number of Births in excess of Deaths during the year was 74, as against 98 for 1958, 50 for 1957, 71 for 1956 and 27 for 1955.

Note:

Births in excess of Deaths:

1950	56 No.
1951	52 No.
1952	58 No.
1953	64 No.
1954	61 No.
1955	27 No.
1956	71 No.
1957	50 No.
1958	98 No.
1959	74 No.

Population Decreases since 1950-1951:

1950/1951	1955	
14,740	14,160	.. 580 No.
1955	1956	
14,160	14,050 ..	.. 110 No.
1956	1957	
14,050	13,970	.. 80 No.
1957	1958	
13,970 ..	13,920	.. 50 No.
1958	1959	
13,920 ..	13,910	.. 10 No.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

The number of Deaths of children under the age of one year is 4, representing an Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births of 61.4. Of these 4, none occurred in Shildon.

26.3
The Infantile Mortality figure for England and Wales is 22.0 per 1,000 Live Births.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

	Death Rate per 1000 pop'n	Inf. Mort. Rate per 1000 Live Births	Still Birth Rate per 1000 pop'n	Birth Rate per 1000 pop'n	Live and Still Birth Rate per 1000 popula- tion
Country Average					
England & Wales	11.6	22.0			20.7
Shildon	11.07	61.4	.57	16.39	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table of Cases as notified in the Whole District, set out in age groups (Civilians only)

Infectious Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-61	61 & over	At all ages
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	1	2	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	13
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia ..	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	2	2	6	11	26
Whooping Cough ..	2	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	8
Measles ..	19	56	54	54	64	147	—	—	—	—	—	—	394
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomylitis..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TUBERCULOSIS:													
1. MALES													
(a) Pulmonary ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	1	1	9
(b) Non-Pulmonary ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. FEMALES:													
(a) Pulmonary ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	1	—	5
(b) Non-Pulmonary ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
	21	59	58	57	70	151	4	7	12	3	8	12	462

TUBERCULOSIS

The following cases remained on the register at the end of the year:

		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Males	59	6	65	
Females	48	15	63	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	107	21	128	

This shows an increase of 13 Pulmonary and 3 Non-Pulmonary Cases over the previous year with one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1959.

The number of known Tuberculosis Cases in the District represents .92% of the population, an increase of .08% over the previous year.

There were 17 Cases notified during the year in the following age groups:

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years	—	—	—	—
5-10 „	—	—	—	—
10-15 „	—	—	—	—
15-20 „	2	—	2	1
20-25 „	5	—	2	—
25-30 „	—	—	—	1
30-35 „	—	—	1	—
35-40 „	—	—	—	—
40-45 „	—	—	—	—
45-50 „	1	—	—	1
50-55 „	—	—	—	—
55-60 „	—	—	—	—
60-65 „	—	—	—	—
65-70 „	—	—	—	—
70-75 „	1	—	—	—
	<hr/> 9 <hr/>	<hr/> — <hr/>	<hr/> 5 <hr/>	<hr/> 3 <hr/>

VACCINATION RETURNS FOR YEAR 1959

With the introduction of the National Health Act (5th July, 1948) this became the responsibility of the Durham County Council.

During the year, the following vaccinations were carried out:

	1st Injection	2nd Injection	3rd Injection
Poliomyelitis	1155	1155	154
	551	370	1057
		Primary	Booster
Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough		165	10
Diphtheria only		9	19
Whooping Cough only		—	—
Smallpox		127	7

PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT

Area (in acres) including Eldon, Old Eldon, Middridge, Fylands and Brusselton ..	4828
No. of inhabited houses in the District of which 75 were constructed during the year, 62 Con- demned/Closed and Demolition Orders served under Sections 17 of the Housing Act, 1957, and 11 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. The tenants of such houses demolished being re-housed by this Council	4696
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£376
Rateable Value	£101,756

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply:

The area has a piped supply of water provided by the Durham County Water Board.

An ample supply has been maintained throughout the year, the supply is of good quality and regular bacteriological and chemical tests are carried out by the Durham County Water Board.

Refuse Collection:

The Urban Area is serviced by the Council and deals with some 4,696 houses. A weekly collection is carried out, and, with the decrease in the numbers of properties in the out-lying area due to demolition, the number of privies in the area has been reduced to 204 and this reduction should continue as a result of the Council's Scheme to give a Grant towards owners carrying out Privy Conversions on their properties. Trade refuse is collected throughout the year at a charge of 1s. 0d. per bin per week.

The Controlled Tip at Sunnydale has now been in operation for over two years giving excellent results by the methods in use, although a marked increase is shown in the amount of paper collected with the refuse.

Collection of Salvage:

This service has been continued along with the normal collection of household refuse in the area, and, during the year has provided a substantial contribution to the General Rate Fund.

Description	Tons	Cwts.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper (all types)	.. 18	9	138	15	0
Scrap Metal .. ..	.. 21	7	235	2	6
			£373	17	6

Householders continue to assist by placing clean, dry paper in separate bundles by the Ash Bin on the normal day of collection.

Drains and Sewerage

The drains and sewers continue to work in a satisfactory manner and the Sewage Works gives excellent results.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

continued—

Rodent Control:

Private businesses and dwelling houses were treated as and where necessary — a charge being made to properties other than dwelling house property. A full time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council for the purpose of carrying out this work.

The public continue to report promptly to the Council Offices any infestation of rats or mice being found on their property.

No. of premises visited
478

No. of baits laid
2576

The number of visits made during the year on Rat Infested premises during which treatment was carried out being 2135

Summary of Notices and work done in the Public Health Inspectors Department during the Year ended 1959.

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	74	—	74
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	—	1	1
	74	1	75

2. Closing and Demolition of Houses.

(a.) Formal Action

	No.
(i) No. of houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	56
(ii) No. of houses Closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	5
(iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses, demolition of which temporarily postponed	1
(iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation (Housing, Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Part 1)	2

(b) **Informal Action**

- (i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above —

3. Reconditioned and Repair

No. of houses made fit during the year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts:—

- (a) As a result of informal action 11
(b) By owners as a result of Statutory Notice .. 12
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners .. 1

4. General Summary:

(a)

	No. of inspections	No. of Informal Notices served	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects Remedied after Notice	Legal Proceedings and General Remarks
Housing: Public Health and Housing Acts: Overcrowding {	647 2182	53 Repairs carried out to Council Houses through this Direct Labour	39	35	
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	
(b) Defective	6	3	3	3	
Drainage	6	3	3	3	
Water supply	9	9	—	9	
Food Premises	60	11	—	11	
Shops Act	—	—	—	—	
Dairies	—	—	—	—	
Slaughter Houses:					
(a) Public	—	—	—	—	
(b) Private	235	9	—	9	
Tents, Vans, etc.	6	—	2	2	
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	
Factories and Workplaces	68	9	—	9	
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	28	14	14	14	
Offensive Accumulations	—	—	—	—	
Smoke Nuisances	19	3	—	3	
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	918	5	—	5	
Keeping of Animals	2	—	—	1	
Privy Conversions	54	—	—	—	18 completed
Cesspools	—	—	—	—	
	4240	119	61	104	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Continued—

4.

(b) Water, Food and Drugs

Samples of water taken for Analysis (water samples are taken by the Durham County Water Board)	1
Seizures of unwholesome Food (Voluntarily surrendered)	84
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis or found to be adulterated	—
No isolated samples were taken by this Council as this is the function of the Durham County Council	
No cases of food adulteration were reported to this Council.	

(c) Precautions against Infectious Disease	No.
Lots of Infectious Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	3
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ..	13

(d) General.

Number of new houses Erected during the year ..	75
Number of such houses Occupied during the year	75
Total number of Water Closets in the District ..	4523
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District ..	204

PRIVY CONVERSION

The Scheme introduced by this Council in 1957, for a Grant of £10 0s. 0d. per privy conversion continues to be operated, mainly in areas Eldon, Brusselton and Middridge.

The number of Conversions completed during the year ended 31st December, 1959, being 18. It is highly essential that all privies in the area should be converted to the water carriage system in the general interests of public health.

MILK RETAILERS

There are nine Retail Purveyors in the District who are supplying either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk. Frequent samples have been taken by the Inspector of Weights and Measures and also by the Durham War Agricultural Executive Committee's representative and all were found to be satisfactory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Continued—

FOOD AND FOOD HYGIENE

Regular visits have been paid throughout the area to those premises in the area concerned with the manufacture and sale of food. In general, the premises were found satisfactory and the main cause of complaint arose from inadequate supplies of towels, nail brushes etc., for the staffs employed on the premises. In addition, there is also the problem of dustbins being placed in bad positions in relation to the premises in which food is stored or sold, together with the condition of the dustbins themselves. In many cases, waste materials are stored in bins used for domestic refuse for periods of up to a week at a time, resulting in both the fly nuisance and also the possibility of Rodent Infestation. The more frequent method of collection of this refuse which should be stored in separate bins will have to be given consideration.

MEAT

Of the six (6) licenced Slaughter Houses in the area, only three (3) are in operation, these being private slaughterhouses used in connection with the business adjacent to the slaughterhouse. Animals bought for slaughter have been of a very high quality and at times difficulty is experienced in carrying out inspections due to the times of slaughtering which are allied to the needs of the business, from week to week. I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. M. Swales, Chief Public Health Inspector, Spennymoor Urban District Council for his assistance in meat inspection in this area, during my absence in the month of August.

				Animals Slaughtered	No. of carcases with offal inspected
Cattle	..	..	..	411	411
Sheep	..	..	..	485	485
Pigs	..	..	..	381	381
Weight of meat condemned	..	..	..	..	92 lb.

HOUSING

(a) The Council's Pre-War and Post-War Housing Programme are summarised as follows:—

	Houses erected
1919 Act	124
1930-1935 Act:	
North Eastern Housing Association, Newcastle. (Let by this Council)	100
Post-War Temporary Housing	43
Post-War Permanent Housing	711
	erected
Post-War Aged Persons Bungalows	85
Post-War Flats	54
(26 available for Old Aged Persons)	

(b) The 5 year Clearance Plan, as compiled in 1955, progressed to the Council's satisfaction and below is a statement of the position at 31st December, 1959:—

Street	No. of Cleared at			Still outstanding
	houses	31-12-59		at 31-12-59
St. Paul's Terrace, Shildon	14	9		5
Lilburn Street, Shildon	15	13		2
Market Place, Shildon	13	11		2
Hudson Street, Shildon	5	5		—
Summersons Yard, Shildon	6	4		4
Auckland Terrace, Nos. 62-90 ..	13	10		3
Auckland Terrace, Nos. 11-17 ..	5	—		5
Auckland Terrace, Nos. 97-153	18	5		13
Dalton Street, Shildon	8	1		7
Marley Street, Shildon	3	2		1
Garbutt Street, Shildon	3	—		3
Dalton Street, Shildon	2	2		—
Mechanic Street, Shildon	4	4		—
Strand Street, Shildon	13	12		1
Halls Row, Eldon	25	24		1
North Side, Middridge	6	1		5
South Side, Eldon	12	2		10
Totals ..	165	105		62

HOUSING (Continued)

(c) Re-Housing:

During the year ended 31st December, 1959, 111 houses were let to the following groups, in accordance with the Council's allocation of Houses Scheme:

	No.
Points	70
Individual and Unfit Houses	30
Medical Cases	3
Key Workers	6
Eviction Cases	2
Total	111

(d) The number of dwellings built by the Council during the year was 74, of which 43 were Houses, 6 Flats and 25 Bungalows, situated on the Jubilee Field Site.

The allocation of Council Houses is made on the following grounds:

- (a) Clearance
- (b) Points List

together with serious Medical Cases and special provisions being made to allocate Bungalows to old people within the town itself.

Persons requiring housing accommodation should complete the Housing Application Form, obtainable at the Council Offices for inclusion on the following year's Housing List.

The number of applicants remaining on the Housing and Bungalow List at 31st December, 1959 were as follows:—

Applicants	Type of Dwelling required
163	Bungalows
126	Two Bedroom Type House
48	Three Bedroom Type House

(e) Rent Act, 1957:

The undermentioned number of applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair during the year, in accordance with the provisions of the Above Act.

HOUSING (Continued)

Part I—Applications for Certificates of Disrepair:

(a) No. of applications for Certificates	5
(b) No. of decisions not to issue Certificates	—
(c) No. of decisions to issue Certificates	4
(i) in respect of some but not all defects	4
(ii) in respect of all defects.	—
(d) No. of undertakings given by Landlords under para. 5 of the 1st Schedule	3
(e) No. of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to para. 5 of the 1st Schedule ..	—
(f) No. of Certificates issued	1

Part II—Applications for Cancellation of Certificates:

(g) Applications by Landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates	2
(h) Objections by Tenants to cancellation of Certificates	—
(i) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of Tenant's objection	—
(j) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority ..	—

(f) House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 (Standard Grants).

The following is a summary of applications received under the provisions of the above Act, from August to 31st December, 1959:—

(i) No. of applications received	43
(ii) No. of applications approved	36
(iii) No. of applications rejected	7
(iv) No. of improvements completed	—

I would like to point out that, where the installation of amenities are of a great benefit, the inclusion of the word “CONTIGUOUS”, in respect of water closets, has resulted in a great many people not being able to take advantage of this Act, and I feel that had the terms been so worded as to include for the provision of the water closet within reasonable access of the premises, a great deal more could have been done in the matter, at less cost to the community.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Regular visits are paid to those Factories situate within the Urban District to ensure that they comply with the requirements of this Act, and the Regulations as to the Means of Escape in the event of Fire. Close liaison is maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories in this latter respect.

It is pleasing to note the improvement carried out at the British Railways Wagon Repair Works by the introduction of Underfeed Stokers and conversion to Gas in other cases thereby limiting the amount of smoke issued from the Works. Constant contact is made with the Management in respect of this and other envisaged improvements demanded by the Clean Air Act of 1956.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. HEGARTY,

*Medical Officer of Health
Shildon Urban District Council*

J. A. STOKER, PRINTER, SHILDON.

